

Introduction

The Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking (PIRT) Review Panel was created by RCW 70.104.090 to monitor pesticide-related incidents that have suspected health or environmental effects. The PIRT Review Panel consists of representatives of Washington State Departments of Agriculture (WSDA), Ecology, Health (DOH), Labor and Industries (L&I), Natural Resources (DNR), and Fish and Wildlife (WDFW); representatives of the University of Washington (UW), Washington State University (WSU), and Washington Poison Center (WPC); a practicing toxicologist; and a member of the public (Appendix A).

Member agencies conduct pesticide incident investigations in accordance with their specific statutory responsibilities and report findings to the PIRT Review Panel for evaluation. The PIRT panel is mandated to perform the following activities:

- Centralize the receipt of information regarding pesticide complaints and their investigations and monitor timeliness of agencies' response to complainants.
- Review and make recommendations for procedures for investigation of pesticide incidents.
- Identify inadequacies of pesticide regulations to protect public health.
- Submit an annual report summarizing pesticide incidents to the legislature.

The PIRT Review Panel has no regulatory authority but acts in an oversight capacity to the six agencies and makes recommendations to the agencies, to the legislature, or to the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

This 2004 report is the PIRT Panel's fourteenth annual report. The report summarizes pesticide-related incident reports or complaints to WSDA, DOH, Ecology, and L&I and calls to WPC. It provides analyses of each agency's incidents and follow-up activities for 2002 and 2003. The report describes PIRT Panel and member agency activities for 2003 and 2004. Other topics of interest in this year's report include:

- A description with graphics on how pesticide-related calls, complaints, incidents, and investigations overlap between the agencies.
- Strengths and limitations of agency data.
- A section on highlighted issues: Pesticide Spray Drift, Cholinesterase Monitoring, Compliance with Worker Protection Standards, Changing patterns of pesticide usage, and West Nile virus.